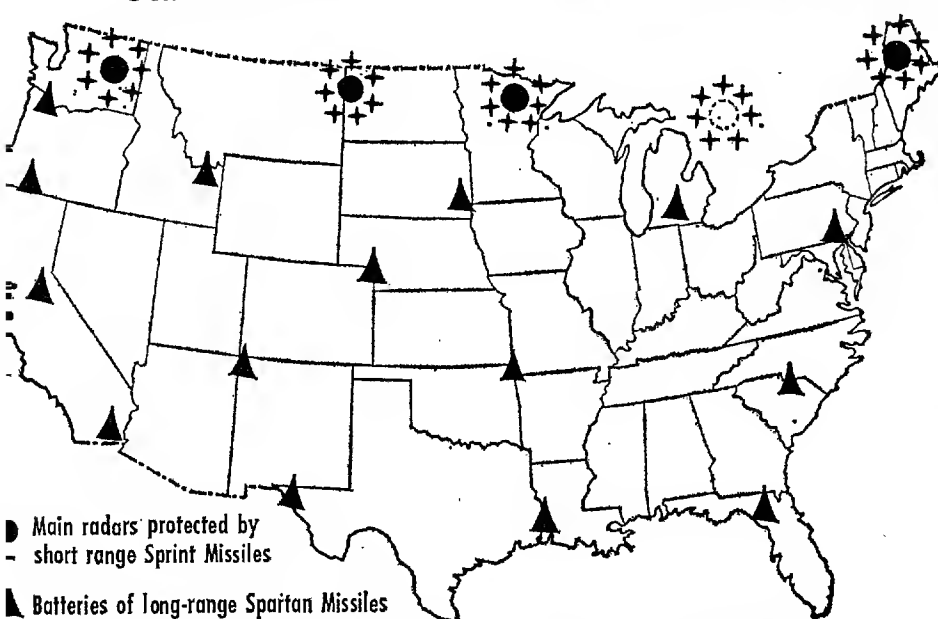


SCHEMATIC CONCEPT OF THIN ABM DEFENSE



Defense Department has not released its plan for a thin missile defense. This is one concept—not an official plan. Missile locations are hypothetical. Canada would have to approve the site indicated by fragmented circle.

Washington Post

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Blast Jolts Foes of U.S. Anti-Missile

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Red China's H-bomb blast yesterday set off political tremors which most likely will topple Johnson Administration resistance to a U.S. anti-ballistic missile defense.

The bomb also dumped another layer of political fallout on the non-proliferation treaty designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

While the U.S. Government had predicted Red China was capable of making an H-bomb, the large size of her first one and its development amidst political turmoil in China dramatized the determination to obtain a first-rate nuclear arsenal.

President Johnson has been holding out against building an anti-ballistic-missile (ABM) defense around the United States. His hope has been to negotiate an agreement under which neither the U.S. nor

But the lack of any visible progress toward that goal plus the spectre of Red China building H-bombs and missiles to carry them make his continued resistance politically risky.

The President and Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara are also becoming increasingly isolated in their opposition. Civilian and military leaders in the Pentagon have come out for some kind of missile defense in recent months. So have the military committees in Congress.

McNamara did hedge his bet at his last press conference by declaring that a limited missile defense would not "destabilize" the present arms balance between the U.S. and Russia.

The Soviet Union already has built a missile defense near Moscow and perhaps another one across the paths U.S. ICBMs would have to travel. McNamara has argued that it would be folly for either country to sink billions in an extensive ABM system because sophisticated missiles always would be able to penetrate.

But the limited, or thin, missile defense would be much cheaper. The idea is to put a thin umbrella over the entire U.S. by relying primarily on about 1000 Spartan missiles, each of which could travel 400 warhead. The short-range

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Blast Jolts Stand of ABM Foes

Sprint missile would be used mostly to protect the eyes of the ABM system—the radar.

This thin defense would cost between \$3 billion and \$5 billion compared with the \$10 billion to \$20 billion ABM defenses the Joint Chiefs of Staff have recommended. McNamara has estimated the ultimate cost of a full missile defense at \$40 billion.

Pentagon weapons specialists contend the thin defense would be effective against the ICBMs Red China will have in the 1970s. So the thin ABM may be sold as an anti-China defense. While arms control talks continue with the Soviets.

McNamara in January of this year said "it appears unlikely that the Chinese could deploy a significant number of operational ICBMs before the mid-1970s, or that those ICBMs would have great reliability, speed of response or substantial protection against attack."

The Defense Secretary said at the same time that a \$3.5 billion thin defense would "offer a high degree of protection at least through the 1970s" against Chinese missiles.

While political observers here agreed that Red China's H-bomb puts pressure on the President to go ahead with an ABM defense, they differ on the bomb's impact on the non-proliferation treaty.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), for example, said Red China's H-bomb undercuts the credibility of the treaty. He said it would be little comfort to India to have a non-proliferation treaty which her



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neighbor Red China did not sign.

Rep. Chet Holifield (Calif.), vice chairman of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, said China's H-bomb makes the treaty "more urgent" than ever. He said the nuclear powers must guarantee to protect the non-nuclear ones "to prevent arms race throughout the world."

At the State Department officials said they saw little immediate impact of the bomb upon the treaty since detonation had been expected